

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 302110Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8785

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4025

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: NEXT MOVES IN OAS REFORM: REACTION TO REACTION

REFS: (A) STATE 099361, (B) STATE 100885, (C) SANTIAGO 3368 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL ADVISER ENRIQUE BERNSTEIN AND CHARGE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS DURING MEETING APRIL 29. BERNSTEIN, APPARENTLY NOT AWARE OF BLANCO'S POSSIBLE CHANGE OF HEART, WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS THEIR INQUIRIES AND SUGGESTED THAT BLANCO FORMALLY PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL STUDY GROUP DURING OASGA. WE DID NOT DISABUSE HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. WE BEGAN BY ASKING BERNSTEIN FOR HIS REACTION TO US IDEAS DESCRIBED PARA 9 REF A. PREDICTABLY HE WAS KEEN ON SUGGESTIONS AND MADE POINT THAT KEY OBJECTIVE WAS TO WREST DRAFT FROM CONTROL OF PERMANENT COUNCIL AND GIVE GOVERNMENTS TIME TO FULLY CONSIDER REFORM EFFORT.

3. WE REVIEWED BRIEFLY RESULTS OF OUR SOUNDINGS REGARDING IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS IN OAS REFORM. BERNSTEIN THEN FILLED US
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IN ON REPLIES TO GOC'S SIMILAR APPROACH WHICH TALLIED WITH

OURS: BOLIVIA, CONFUSED BUT HAS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIMITED GROUP; ARGENTINA SYMPATHETIC BUT LACKING DECISION MAKERS WHO HAD ADDRESSED ISSUE; BRASIL IN AGREEMENT WITH CHILEAN PHILOSOPHY ON PROBLEM; PARAGUAY WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN SUPPORT AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT. IN BOGOTA, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL OBSERVED HOW MUCH ALIKE U.S. AND CHILEAN PROPOSALS SEEMED AND SAID COLOMBIA GENERALLY LIKED IDEA OF BOTH.

4. MONTEVIDEO HAD WRITTEN CHILEANS THAT GOU SUPPORTED PROPOSAL AND OFFERED MONTEVIDEO AS SITE FOR STUDY-EXPERT GROUP'S DELIBERATIONS. BERNSTEIN WAS MUCH TAKEN BY THIS EXAMPLE OF URUGUAYAN ENTHUSIASM AND SUGGESTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO TAKE LEAD AT OASGA BY FORMALLY PROPOSING PROCEDURE.

5. BERNSTEIN SAID QUITO REPORTED ECUADOREANS WOULD PUSH FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF CEESI/PC DRAFT. HE HAD NO RESPONSE FROM MEXICO BUT SEEMED A LITTLE SURPRISED AT OUR JUDGMENT THAT GOM WOULD RESIST ADDITIONAL STUDY PROCEDURE. COSTA RICANS TOLD CHILEANS, AS THEY HAD TOLD US, THAT FACIO WAS OUT OF TOWN.

6. GOC HAD NOT POLLED PERU, BUT AT DINNER PARTY DURING PERU/ CHILEAN TALKS ON BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR BERNSTEIN HAD BROACHED GOC POSITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR. LATTER'S REACTION WAS QUICK AND COMPLETELY UNYIELDING ("JUST THE WAY HE SOUNDED THREE YEARS AGO," BERNSTEIN NOTED.) AFTER DINNER, HOWEVER, EX-FOREIGN MINISTER; EX-PRESIDENT BUSTAMANTE AND AMBASSADOR MARCHAND ALL FOUND OPPORTUNITY TO TELL BERNSTEIN THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH CHILEAN POSITION (WHICH BERNSTEIN HAD CAST IN TERMS OF A CHOICE BETWEEN OAS WITH US OR WITHOUT US). MARCHAND WHISPERED TO BERNSTEIN "LEAVE DE LA FLOR TO ME, HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT YET."

7. CHANGING TOPICS, WE ASKED BERNSTEIN TO COMMENT ON UPI AND AP ITEMS IN THE LOCAL PRESS STATING THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD TOLD A URUGUAYAN PRESS CONFERENCE OAS HAD LOST PRESTIGE AND SHOULD BE GIVEN NEW POWERS. AMONG THEM SHOULD BE RIGHT OF VETO AT UNITED NATIONS.

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8. BERNSTEIN REFLECTED CONSTERNATION AND THEN CHUCKLED. TO HIS KNOWLEDGE PRESIDENT HAD NOT TALKED ABOUT CHARTER REFORM OR OAS MATTERS WITH URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS; CHILEAN BRIEFING PAPERS HAD SHORT STATEMENTS ON OAS, TO EFFECT THAT IT NEED REVITALIZATION. ANOTHER SECTION DEALT WITH LATIN AMERICAN ROLE IN UNITED NATIONS AND SAID THAT LATIN AMERICAN BLOC HAD SPLIT, REDUCING LATIN'S VOICE IN UN. PAPER SUGGESTED THAT UNIFIED APPROACH AND ACTION ON GEOGRAPHICAL NOT IDEOLOGICAL BASIS REQUIRED IF LATIN'S

WANTED TO REASSERT THEMSELVES AND DEFEND HEMISPHERIC INTERESTS.
HE DISMISSED PRESS ACCOUNTS AS REFLECTING PRESIDENT'S LACK OF
DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF UN AND CURSORY REVIEW OF POSITION PAPERS.

9. COMMENT: WE EXPECT GOC MAY BE IN FOR RUDE AWAKENING IF
BLANCO RECANTS ON URUGUAYAN NOTE TO CHILEANS OFFERING
MONTEVIDEO AS SITE OF LIMITED EXPERT GROUP MEETING. BERNSTEIN
HAS HIGH HOPES THAT SITUATION IS NOW WELL ON ROAD TO
SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION.
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